

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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/101 W

-----124655 242206Z /70

R 241444Z JAN 78
FM USINT HAVANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1024
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAVANA 0208

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, ET, SO, CU
SUBJECT: MORE ON CUBAN MILITARY CALL-UP

REF: HAVANA 0204

1. VATICAN NUNCIATURA TOLD USINT, JANUARY 23, THAT THEY HAVE RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM PRIESTS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF COUNTRY INDICATING THAT INDIVIDUALS ARE BEING CALLED UP SPECIFICALLY FOR SERVICE IN ETHIOPIA. CUBANS, ACCORDING TO NUNCIATURA, ARE REPORTEDLY CALLING TO MILITARY SERVICE CERTAIN CLASSES OF INDIVIDUALS--MECHANICS, DOCTORS, AND TECHNICIANS OF VARIOUS TYPES--SOME OF WHOM PREVIOUSLY WERE EXEMPT FROM MILITARY SERVICE. NUNCIATURE HAS NOT YET RECEIVED INFORMATION REGARDING RESERVES AND ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL AND IS UNABLE TO ESTIMATE EXACT EXTENT OF CALL-UP. INDIVIDUALS ARE BEING TOLD THAT THEY WILL SPEND ONE YEAR OF THEIR THREE-YEAR MILITARY OBLIGATION IN ETHIOPIA.

2. NUNCIATURA STATES THAT CASES OF TWO INDIVIDUALS WHO REFUSED TO SERVE HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO THEIR ATTENTION.
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ONE INDIVIDUAL WAS JAILED FOR THREE DAYS AND ANOTHER HAS BEEN REPORTEDLY HARASSED BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES. NUNCIATURA STATES THAT THEY HAVE HEARD SEVERAL ACCOUNTS OF MOTHERS SOBBING WHEN LEARNING THAT THEIR SONS HAVE BEEN CALLED UP FOR ETHIOPIAN SERVICE.

3. COMMENT: USINT HAS INDEPENDENTLY HEARD TWO SIMILAR

FIRST-HAND ACCOUNTS OF PUBLICLY DISPLAYED MATERNAL ANGUISH--
INVOLVING ONE ACTIVE DUTY SOLDIER AND ONE RESERVIST. THIS
PHENOMENON IS APPARENTLY COMMONPLACE IN THIS SOCIETY IN WHICH
FAMILY TIES CONTINUE TO BE CLOSE. POLITBURO MEMBER RAMIRO
VALDES, ON CONSTRUCTORS' DAY IN LATTER PART OF LAST YEAR,
SPOKE OF DIFFICULTY IN GETTING CUBANS TO WORK IN PARTS OF
COUNTRY DISTANT FROM THEIR HOMES (FOR A SIMILAR
OBSERVATION BY CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ--SEE HAVANA A-009,
DATED NOVEMBER 9, 1977). PRESUMABLY, SIMILAR EMOTIONAL
RESISTANCE EXISTS WITH REGARD TO OVERSEAS MILITARY SERVICE.
NONETHELESS, CUBAN POPULATION APPEARS SUFFICIENTLY
PROPAGANDIZED, PASSIVE OR COWED TO PERMIT LIMITED MOBILIZATION
TO TAKE PLACE WITHOUT MAJOR PROBLEMS.
GLASSMAN

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